Security risk to crucial army depot in Bhuj due to encroachment

970. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether fake victims of Bhuj earthquake have built shops at the doorsteps of crucial army depot storing 772 tanks, guns, rocket launchers, high explosives, etc.;

(b) if so, whether it is a security risk as a mere matchstick or heavy stone could blow the whole depot; and

(c) as any civilian activity is illegal within 700 meters of this Bhujiya hill on the outskirts of Bhuj, what steps have been taken to avoid any unfortunate mishap which may result in huge loss of army equipment and lives of defence personnel?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) No shops have been constructed in the vicinity of Army Ammunition Depot at its present location.

(b) and (c) As there is no army depot at Bhujiya hill on the outskirts of Bhuj, the question does not arise.

Introduction of submarines in Indian Navy

971. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a global tender for the second line of submarines is planned during 2009 to augment the fledging underwater arm of Indian Navy, presently comprising 16 conventional diesel-electric submarines, 10 Russian Kilo-class, four German HDW and two Foxtrot class vessels; and

(b) if so, whether Government will ensure that future deals with foreign suppliers contain strict adherence of agreed schedule, transfer of State-of-the-art technology, and enforcement of pecuniary damages in view of our sad experiences in deals regarding Russian Admiral Gorshkov aircraft carrier, French Scorpene Project, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Six Scorpene Class submarines are presently under construction at M/s Mazagon Dock Limited, Mumbai with transfer of technology from M/s Armaris, France under Project-75. The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) has accorded approval from acceptance of necessity angle in November, 2007 for the indigenous construction of six more submarines to be built under Project-75 (India). The submarines are to be built to an imported design in association with an overseas collaborator to be selected on multi-vendor basis. The issuance of Request for Proposal (RFP) for the submarines under P-75(I) is envisaged in mid-2009.

Necessary provisions are included in contracts to ensure that the defence equipments are received as per agreed delivery schedule and negotiated price and other contractual terms and